

INTRODUCTION.

IF MILTON, in his palmy days,
"Il' Penserosa," wrote for praise,
And, ROBERT BURNS, has not been blamed ;
For having "Tam O'Shaunter" framed :
Nor COWPER, for the pride he took,
Of "Gilpin's" long ride in his Book.
Tho' flimsey fabrics at the best,
They skill admirably attest !
So full and finish'd ev'ry trace
Exhibiting Pierian grace.
All of them exquisitely knit,
And master pieces we admit.
But, if the truth, we must unfold,
They're only splendid lies when told.
Yet the creative pow'r of man
Mirror—as poet's only can.

Then, is there any question why
We too may not our pencil try ?
As theirs are merely fictions—ours
Are facts, and fragrant as May-flow'rs.
And, if not classic now they may
Become so at another day ;